

40. *WALSURA PINNATA* HASSK. (MELIACEAE) FROM ANDAMAN ISLANDS — A NEW RECORD FOR INDIAN FLORA

(With a text-figure)

The genus *Walsura* Roxb. has about 40 species mainly distributed in India, South China, Burma, north-west Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo and Java (Willis 1966). In India, the genus is represented by five species (Santapau and Henry 1973), viz. *W. trifolia* (A. Juss.) Harms, *W. tubulata* Hiern, *W. robusta* Roxb., *W. hypoleuca* Kurz and *W. candollei* King, the last being endemic to the Andaman group of islands.

*W. pinnata* Hassk., hitherto known to be endemic to Java, is being reported here from Andaman islands, as an addition to the Indian flora. The specimens were collected while exploring the proposed North Andaman Biosphere Reserve areas and also from the Mt. Harriet hill ranges in South Andaman. The following description is provided based

on these specimens.

*Walsura pinnata* Hassk., *Retzia*, 1: 147. 1963; Backer & Van Den Brink, *Fl. Java*, 2: 129. 1965.

Trees 10-12 m tall; stem slender, faintly buttressed at the base, bark grey to light brown; branchlets faintly ribbed, pubescent, older parts glabrescent. Leaves up to 30 cm long, imparipinnate; petiole up to 8 cm long; leaflets sub-opposite, 3-5, 12-15 x 3.0-4.5 cm, glaucous beneath, ovate-oblong, entire, retuse or shortly acuminate, lateral nerves 10-13 pairs, conspicuously pink and anastomosing below the margin, intercalated veins well developed; petiolules glaucous, 0.8-1.5 cm long (in terminal leaflets up to 5 cm). Flowers in axillary and terminal panicles or corymbs, peduncle and pedicels pink, finely hairy. Sepals 5, 0.7-0.75 x 0.4-0.45 mm, triangular, connate, puberulous. Petals 5, 3.0-3.3 x 1.3-1.5 mm, white, erect-upcurved, ovate-oblong, puberulous. Stamens 10, 1.8-2.0 mm long, hairy around the disc; filaments 1.2-1.5 mm, free or shortly connate, flattened, bidentate at the apex, anthers basifixed, ovoid. Disc annular, puberulous, fleshy. Ovary 2-celled with two ovules in each; style short, stigma broad. Fruit unknown.

**Specimens examined:** Milannagar, North Andaman Island, 12 December 1990, *P.S.N. Rao* 15718 (PBL); Shole Bay, Mt. Harriet, S. Andaman, 19 May 1990, *Sam P. Mathew* 20539 (PBL).

**Distribution:** INDIA (Andaman islands) and Java.

As this species occurs nowhere else in India and the distribution being rare with a restricted population of only a few trees, steps should be taken for habitat conservation in view of various developmental activities taking place in the Andamans.

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P.S.N. RAO

SAM P. MATHEW



Fig. 1. *Walsura pinnata* Hassk. — twig with inflorescence.

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## REFERENCES

- SANTAPAU, H. & HENRY, A.N. (1973): A Dictionary of Flowering plants. C S I R, New Delhi.
- WILLIS, J. C. (1966): A Dictionary of Flowering plants and Ferns. The University Press, Cambridge.

#### 41. *DIGITARIA SIAMENSIS* HENR. (POACEAE) — ADDITION TO THE INDIAN FLORA

(With ten text-figures)

While scrutinising the grasses collected from Santhal Pargana Division of Bihar, we came across an interesting grass collected from Godda district on 5 September 1987, which on critical examination was identified as *Digitaria siamensis* Henr. Earlier this extremely rare grass has been reported from Burma (Hooker 1896 FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA, 7). It was found growing along river banks, associated with *Digitaria stricta* Roth ex Roem. et Schult., *D. setigera* Roth apud Roem. et Schult., *Hetero pogon contortus* (Leduce) P. Beauv. and *Rottboellia cochinchinensis* (L.) Clayton. Apparently the plant shows similarity with *D. stricta* in having clavate-tipped hairs on lower glume and lower lemma. However, it can be readily distinguished from *D. stricta* by the presence of well developed upper glumes, longer spikelets and hairless pedicels.

A collection of the above taxon by Kurz (Acc. no. 518608 CAL) from Rajmahal Hills, is deposited in CAL, Howrah. However, this grass is not mentioned in any literature on grasses of India. Therefore, detailed description, illustration, phenological and ecological notes are given to help in ascertaining its range of distribution in other parts of the country. The voucher specimen is deposited in Bhagalpur University Herbarium.

*Digitaria siamensis* Henr. Monogr. Gen. Digitaria 692. 1950; Bor, Gr. of Burma, Ceylon, Ind. & Pak. 305. 1960.

Annual, up to 30 cm high. Culms erect, slender, branched at base, glabrous. Leaf-blades 3-15 x 0.3-

0.5 cm, linear to linear-lanceolate, minutely scabrid on both surfaces, base narrow, margins scabrid, apex acute; sheaths compressed, up to 12 cm long, keeled, scabrid, margins with tubercle-based hairs; ligules lacerate, up to 5 mm long. Racemes 3-6, up to 12 cm long, alternate on an elongated axis; rachis not winged, angles scabrid; pedicels unequal, up to 1.5 mm long, minutely scabrid, tip discoid. Spikelets 1.6-2 mm long, elliptic-oblong, acute. Lower glume absent. Upper glume 1.6-2 mm long, 3-nerved, two nerves adjacent to mid nerve, densely clavate-tipped hairs, other glabrous, acute, margins with clavate-tipped hairs. Lower lemma similar to the upper glume, empty, hyaline, 5-nerved, mid-nerve glabrous, two adjacent nerves hairy, margins with clavate-tipped hairs, obtuse, epaleate. Upper lemma 1.5-1.8 mm long, hermaphrodite, coriaceous, glabrous, yellow, apiculate, margins incurved; palea similar to the upper lemma. Stamens three; anthers up to 1.5 mm long.

Flowers: August-December.

Ecology: Along river banks, foothills; rare.

Specimens examined: Shibpur, Godda district, 5 September 1987, R.R. Jha 6558; Rajmahal Hills, Sahibganj district, Kurz s.n. (CAL acc. no. 518608).

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S. K. VARMA

#### 42. LECTOTYPIIFICATION OF *BAUHINIA GLAUCA* SSP. *TENUIFLORA* (LEGUMINOSAE)

While attempting to designate a lectotype for *Bauhinia glauca* ssp. *tenuiflora* (C.B. Clarke) Larsen & Larsen, a plant originally described from Manipur by Clarke (*J. Linn. Soc.* 25: 18, t.6. 1889), it was ob-

served that Larsen *et al.* (Fl. Cambodge, Laos & Vietnam 18: 184. 1980) cited only the collection of Watt (no. 6915 K, photo. - CAL!) as type material.

However, Clarke (*J. Linn. Soc.* 25: 2. 1889) in